

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 990

To provide a grant program to support the establishment and operation
of Teachers Professional Development Institutes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 10, 2005

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. DODD) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide a grant program to support the establishment
and operation of Teachers Professional Development In-
stitutes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN-**
4 **STITUTES.**

5 Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
7 the following:

“PART C—TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL

DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES

“SEC. 241. SHORT TITLE.

“This part may be cited as the ‘Teachers Professional Development Institutes Act’.

“SEC. 242. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

“(1) Ongoing, subject-specific teacher professional development is essential to improved student learning.

“(2) The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 calls for a highly qualified teacher in every core-subject classroom; attaining this goal will require innovative and effective approaches to improving the quality of teaching.

“(3) The Teachers Institute Model is an innovative and proven approach that encourages collaboration between urban school teachers and university faculty. The model focuses on teachers’ continuing academic preparation and on the personal and collaborative application of their studies in their classrooms, schools, and districts.

“(4) The Teachers Institute Model has a proven record, as demonstrated by the success of a 3-year national demonstration pilot project (referred to in

1 this part as the ‘National Demonstration Project’) in
 2 several United States cities.

3 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this part is to pro-
 4 vide Federal assistance to support the establishment and
 5 operation of Teachers Professional Development Institutes
 6 for local educational agencies that serve significant low-
 7 income populations in States throughout the Nation—

8 “(1) to improve student learning; and

9 “(2) to enhance the quality of teaching by
 10 strengthening the subject matter mastery and peda-
 11 gogical skills of current teachers through continuing
 12 teacher preparation.

13 **“SEC. 243. DEFINITIONS.**

14 “In this part:

15 “(1) POVERTY LINE.—The term ‘poverty line’
 16 means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of
 17 Management and Budget, and revised annually in
 18 accordance with section 673(2) of the Community
 19 Services Block Grant Act) applicable to a family of
 20 the size involved.

21 “(2) SIGNIFICANT LOW-INCOME POPULATION.—
 22 The term ‘significant low-income population’ means
 23 a student population of which not less than 25 per-
 24 cent are from families with incomes below the pov-
 25 erty line.

1 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
2 the several States of the United States, the District
3 of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

4 “(4) TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
5 INSTITUTE.—The term ‘Teachers Professional De-
6 velopment Institute’ means a partnership or joint
7 venture between or among 1 or more institutions of
8 higher education, and 1 or more local educational
9 agencies serving a significant low-income population,
10 which partnership or joint venture—

11 “(A) is entered into for the purpose of im-
12 proving the quality of teaching and learning
13 through collaborative seminars designed to en-
14 hance both the subject matter and the peda-
15 gogical resources of the seminar participants;
16 and

17 “(B) works in collaboration to determine
18 the direction and content of the collaborative
19 seminars.

20 **“SEC. 244. GRANT AUTHORITY.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized—

22 “(1) to award grants to Teachers Professional
23 Development Institutes to encourage the establish-
24 ment and operation of Teachers Professional Devel-
25 opment Institutes; and

1 “(2) to provide technical assistance, either di-
2 rectly or through existing Teachers Professional De-
3 velopment Institutes, to assist local educational
4 agencies and institutions of higher education in pre-
5 paring to establish and in operating Teachers Pro-
6 fessional Development Institutes.

7 “(b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting a Teachers
8 Professional Development Institute for a grant under this
9 part, the Secretary shall consider—

10 “(1) the extent to which the proposed Teachers
11 Professional Development Institute will serve a com-
12 munity with a significant low-income population;

13 “(2) the extent to which the proposed Teachers
14 Professional Development Institute will follow the
15 Understandings and Necessary Procedures that have
16 been developed following the National Demonstra-
17 tion Project;

18 “(3) the extent to which the local educational
19 agency participating in the proposed Teachers Pro-
20 fessional Development Institute has a high percent-
21 age of teachers who are unprepared or under pre-
22 pared to teach the core academic subjects the teach-
23 ers are assigned to teach; and

24 “(4) the extent to which the proposed Teachers
25 Professional Development Institute will receive a

1 level of support from the community and other
2 sources that will ensure the requisite long-term com-
3 mitment for the success of a Teachers Professional
4 Development Institute.

5 “(c) CONSULTATION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating applications
7 under subsection (b), the Secretary may request the
8 advice and assistance of existing Teachers Profes-
9 sional Development Institutes.

10 “(2) STATE AGENCIES.—If the Secretary re-
11 ceives 2 or more applications for new Teachers Pro-
12 fessional Development Institutes that propose serv-
13 ing the same State, the Secretary shall consult with
14 the State educational agency regarding the applica-
15 tions.

16 “(d) FISCAL AGENT.—For the purpose of this part,
17 an institution of higher education participating in a
18 Teachers Professional Development Institute shall serve
19 as the fiscal agent for the receipt of grant funds under
20 this part.

21 “(e) LIMITATIONS.—A grant under this part—

22 “(1) shall be awarded for a period not to exceed
23 5 years; and

1 “(2) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total
 2 costs of the eligible activities, as determined by the
 3 Secretary.

4 **“SEC. 245. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Teachers Professional Devel-
 6 opment Institute that receives a grant under this part may
 7 use the grant funds—

8 “(1) for the planning and development of appli-
 9 cations for the establishment of Teachers Profes-
 10 sional Development Institutes;

11 “(2) to provide assistance to existing Teachers
 12 Professional Development Institutes established dur-
 13 ing the National Demonstration Project to enable
 14 the Teachers Professional Development Institutes—

15 “(A) to further develop existing Teachers
 16 Professional Development Institutes; or

17 “(B) to support the planning and develop-
 18 ment of applications for new Teachers Profes-
 19 sional Development Institutes;

20 “(3) for the salary and necessary expenses of a
 21 full-time director to plan and manage such Teachers
 22 Professional Development Institute and to act as li-
 23 aison between the participating local educational
 24 agency and institution of higher education;

1 “(4) to provide suitable office space, staff,
2 equipment, and supplies, and to pay other operating
3 expenses for the development and maintenance of
4 Teachers Professional Development Institutes;

5 “(5) to provide stipends for teachers partici-
6 pating in collaborative seminars in the sciences and
7 humanities, and to provide remuneration for those
8 members of the higher education faculty who lead
9 the seminars; and

10 “(6) to provide for the dissemination through
11 print and electronic means of curriculum units pre-
12 pared in conjunction with Teachers Professional De-
13 velopment Institutes seminars.

14 “(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
15 use not more than 50 percent of the funds appropriated
16 to carry out this part to provide technical assistance to
17 facilitate the establishment and operation of Teachers
18 Professional Development Institutes. For the purpose of
19 this subsection, the Secretary may contract with existing
20 Teachers Professional Development Institutes to provide
21 all or a part of the technical assistance under this sub-
22 section.

1 **“SEC. 246. APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND AGREEMENT.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this
3 part, a Teachers Professional Development Institute shall
4 submit an application to the Secretary that—

5 “(1) meets the requirement of this part and any
6 regulations under this part;

7 “(2) includes a description of how the Teachers
8 Professional Development Institute intends to use
9 funds provided under the grant;

10 “(3) includes such information as the Secretary
11 may require to apply the criteria described in section
12 244(b);

13 “(4) includes measurable objectives for the use
14 of the funds provided under the grant; and

15 “(5) contains such other information and assur-
16 ances as the Secretary may require.

17 “(b) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

18 “(1) promptly evaluate an application received
19 for a grant under this part; and

20 “(2) notify the applicant within 90 days of the
21 receipt of a completed application of the Secretary’s
22 approval or disapproval of the application.

23 “(c) AGREEMENT.—Upon approval of an application,
24 the Secretary and the Teachers Professional Development
25 Institute shall enter into a comprehensive agreement cov-
26 ering the entire period of the grant.

1 **“SEC. 247. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.**

2 “(a) REPORT.—Each Teachers Professional Develop-
3 ment Institute receiving a grant under this part shall re-
4 port annually on the progress of the Teachers Professional
5 Development Institute in achieving the purpose of this
6 part and the purposes of the grant.

7 “(b) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—

8 “(1) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall evalu-
9 ate the activities funded under this part and submit
10 an annual report regarding the activities to the
11 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
12 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education
13 and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.

14 “(2) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall
15 broadly disseminate successful practices developed
16 by Teachers Professional Development Institutes.

17 “(c) REVOCATION.—If the Secretary determines that
18 a Teachers Professional Development Institute is not
19 making substantial progress in achieving the purpose of
20 this part and the purposes of the grant by the end of the
21 second year of the grant under this part, the Secretary
22 may take appropriate action, including revocation of fur-
23 ther payments under the grant, to ensure that the funds
24 available under this part are used in the most effective
25 manner.

1 **“SEC. 248. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this part—

4 “(1) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

5 “(2) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

6 “(3) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

7 “(4) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

8 “(5) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.”.

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